



## City of Durham Durham County

### Joint News Release

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## New Durham Planning Academy Seeks Applicants

*Applications Due April 8 for Free Pilot Program to Help Residents Understand Planning  
Concepts & Procedures*

DURHAM, N.C. – Durham residents who want a better understanding on planning issues and how they impact current and future development should register now for the new [Durham Planning Academy](#).

Hosted by the [Durham City-County Planning Department](#), this free pilot program will introduce residents to planning concepts and procedures, explore the responsibilities of the department, and share typical procedures that various types of planning cases undergo. Participants will also learn about the legal framework in which planners must operate, and be able to participate in a mock Planning Commission meeting where facets and perspectives on planning issues will be discussed.

According to Planning Supervisor Aaron Cain with the Durham City-County Planning Department, this pilot academy is a proactive attempt to help residents understand what can sometimes be a very complex process. “Over the past several years, our department heard from many residents that the planning process, goals, and regulations can be cumbersome and difficult to understand for the average resident,” Cain said. “Our goal with the Durham Planning Academy is to help shed light on how planning works in this community, and have academy graduates empowered to unravel some of the complications for their neighbors when issues and projects arise.”

The academy will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on three Tuesdays throughout April and May 2016: April 19, May 3, and May 17. An [online](#) application must be submitted by Friday, April 8

and space is limited. Participants are required to attend all three sessions and complete an assignment prior to the May 3 and May 17 sessions. The academy is free for attendees and dinner will be provided at each session.

For more information, visit the [Durham Planning Academy Web page](#) or contact Cain at (919) 560-4137, ext. 28226 or by [email](#).

### **About the Durham City-County Planning Department**

The [Durham City-County Planning Department](#) is the planning agency for the City and County of Durham. The department works with the community to develop long-range and special area plans containing policies to direct growth. Guided by the City's [Strategic Plan](#), the department helps to make Durham a great place to live, work, and play by working to create a strong and diverse economy, and thriving and livable neighborhoods.

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